

# Volunteers-in-Parks Newsletter

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Valley Forge National Historical Park



## Upcoming Events

April 1, 2017

### April: Volunteer Appreciation Month

*Thank you for everything you do for Valley Forge. As part of our involvement with two professional associations of volunteer managers in the Greater Philadelphia area, we participate in a reciprocal free pass program for the month. Regularly scheduled Valley Forge volunteers may receive a set of free passes to area cultural sites. Please fill out this form to receive your pass: <https://goo.gl/forms/9kSa31qDc7uNsnu22>.*

### April 4 (10am-4:30pm): Home School Day

*A core team of volunteers has already been planning this event with Ranger Jennifer Bourque. Thanks to everyone involved!*

### April 10 (12pm): Training opportunity: Artifacts and what to do with them

*Join John Turck, Archeologist/ GIS Specialist, to learn what to do if you (or a Visitor) find an artifact in the park. Will take place in the Meeting Room, please let Cristina know if you plan to attend.*

### April 12 (10am-12pm): Keep Valley Forge Beautiful Clean Up

*Join volunteers from other divisions as we join forces for a lively spring clean-up. Email Cristina if you want to volunteer.*

### April 15 (10am-2:30pm): Jr. Ranger Day

*Volunteers needed! 3 VIPs for Check-In/handing out Jr. Ranger Books; 2 VIPs to assist kids with the Visitor Center Scavenger Hunt; 2 VIPs to lead the NPS arrowhead coloring station. Email Cristina ASAP if you can volunteer or want more information.*

### April 15-23: National Park Week

*NPS and the [National Park Foundation](#), the official charity of America's national parks, are presenting National Park Week—America's largest celebration of national heritage.*

### April 23 (8am-12pm): The Valley Forge Revolutionary 5-Mile Run

*A unique challenge for runners of all skill levels. Runners trek the five-mile, USATF certified course through the park. [Rev Run](#) also includes a 3 mile walk and the 1.776km Young Patriots Run for kids ages 6-14. All proceeds benefit the Valley Forge National Historical Park. Volunteers still needed to assist with Clean Up, email Cristina for details and if you are interested.*

## Volunteer & Park Updates

The Youth Conservation Corps at Valley Forge is now accepting applications from high school students for summer jobs until March 31: [www.nps.gov/vafo/getinvolved/workwithus.htm](http://www.nps.gov/vafo/getinvolved/workwithus.htm) or contact Amy Ruhe (610-783-1036 | [amy\\_ruhe@nps.gov](mailto:amy_ruhe@nps.gov)).

Natural Resources is seeking a 6-month intern through the Conservation Legacy program. Please feel free to share the attached Internship Announcement with anyone who may be interested. Deadline to apply is May 15.

The Encampment Store is looking for suggestions for new merchandise. They are asking any staff or volunteers to share their ideas of a book or item that could be sold in the store. Please fill out the form (attached) as best you can with the pertinent information about the item(s). You can return your forms to The Encampment Store office, located on the second floor of the Visitor Center by April 7th. If you have any questions, please contact Daria Fink at 610-783-1081.

A Cub Scout Pack is looking for someone to come to their meeting dressed as a Continental Army Soldier to present the Valley Forge Historical Trail medals to 4 Scouts on April 6 at 6:30pm in Roxborough. Email Cristina ASAP if you are interested.

The Valley Forge Park Alliance wants to know how YOU use and enjoy the park. Please help them out by completing this [survey](#).

# Volunteer & Park Updates (continued)

Valley Forge staff will conduct outreach at [Phoenixville First Fridays](#) (6-10pm on May 5, June 2, July 7, Aug 4, Sept 1, Oct 6). Interested Volunteers should contact Ranger Vanessa Latham ([vanessa\\_latham@nps.gov](mailto:vanessa_latham@nps.gov)). Volunteers should wear their uniform and name bar, and be prepared to commit to the entire four hours.

Did you know that Magistrate Court is held in the Valley Forge meeting room every month (9am-12pm). The public is welcome to sit in. Anyone going to attend will have to go through security. Dates are currently set for April 27, May 25, June 29, July 27, September 21, October 19, November 22, and December 21.

2017 Fee Free days for public lands: April 15-15 & April 22-23 for National Park Week Weekends; June 10 for National Get Outdoors Day (national forests will waive entrance fees); August 25 for the National Park Service Birthday; September 30 for National Public Lands Day (National parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests and public lands managed by Bureau of Land Management will waive their entrance fees); October 8 for First Sunday of National Wildlife Refuge Week (all national wildlife refuges will waive their entrance fees); November 11-12 for Veterans Day Weekend.

Are you over the age of 62 and want a lifetime pass to all national parks? Get yours ASAP before they raise the cost to \$80. Right now you can order one online for \$20, or buy one for \$10 at a national park with a fee (not Valley Forge). Get the details here: <https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm>.

[The National Park System Plan](#). NPS released a plan to identify opportunities within its current operations where there is potential to more fully represent the natural, historical, and cultural heritage of our country. The plan has a strong emphasis on the importance of partnerships and community engagement.

Ongoing variety of volunteer opportunities at Hopewell Furnace include Historical Database Entry, Historic Account Book Indexer, Visitor Center, and many more. Visit <http://npgallery.nps.gov/hofu/> or [www.volunteer.gov](http://www.volunteer.gov) (search "Hopewell").

Free, interactive iBooks on Washington's Leadership from Mt. Vernon's [George Washington Leadership Institute](#) are available for download on Apple products (Android available soon): [www.mountvernon.org/site/leadership-institute/#lessons](http://www.mountvernon.org/site/leadership-institute/#lessons).

## Safety Reminders

1. Please review the Valley Forge Superintendent's Compendium to learn the park's rules and regulations: <https://www.nps.gov/vafo/learn/management/upload/2015-VAFO-Compendium.pdf>.
2. Remember to program the Montgomery County Non-Emergency Line (610-275-1222) into your cell phone. For immediate emergencies (safety or medical) ALWAYS call 911. For all other circumstances call the Non-Emergency number.
3. Call the Valley Forge Snow Line if you are not sure if the park has a delayed opening or will be closed: 610-783-1095.
4. Ticks are out in force! Attached is the Job Hazard Analysis that all VIPs should review.